

The Comedy at Calvary

Mark 15:27-32

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● I. The Power Elite (27)

- John 18:40 – Now Barabbas was a robber.
 - An armed revolutionary, a guerrilla, a terrorist.
 - Josephus uses this word to describe the Zealots, the anti-Roman insurrectionists.
- The two “robbers” were probably accomplices of Barabbas.
- Cf. Is. 58:12; Luke 22:37

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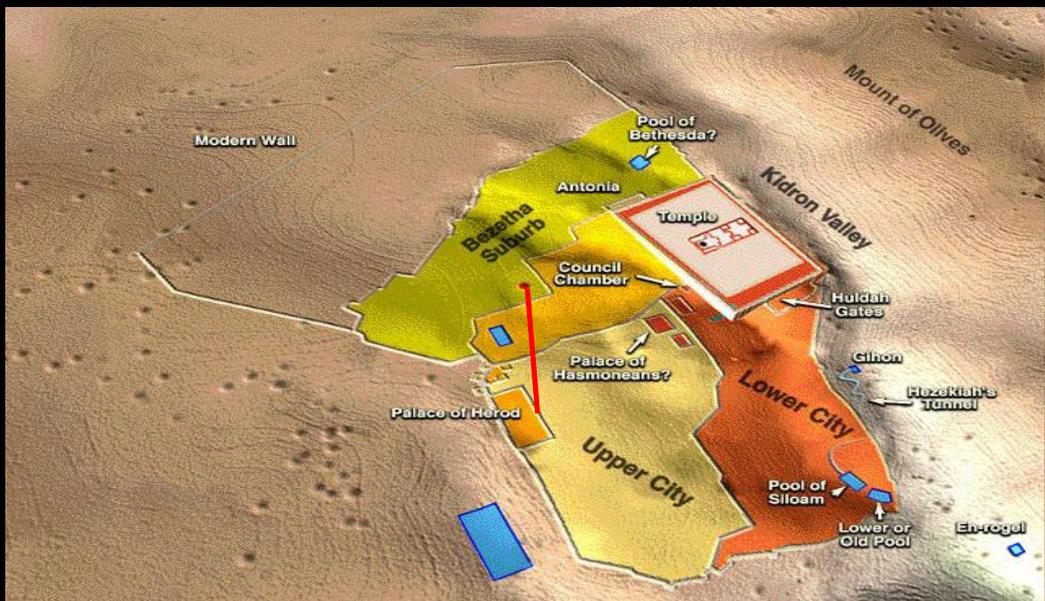
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● II. The Outwardly Religious (29-30)

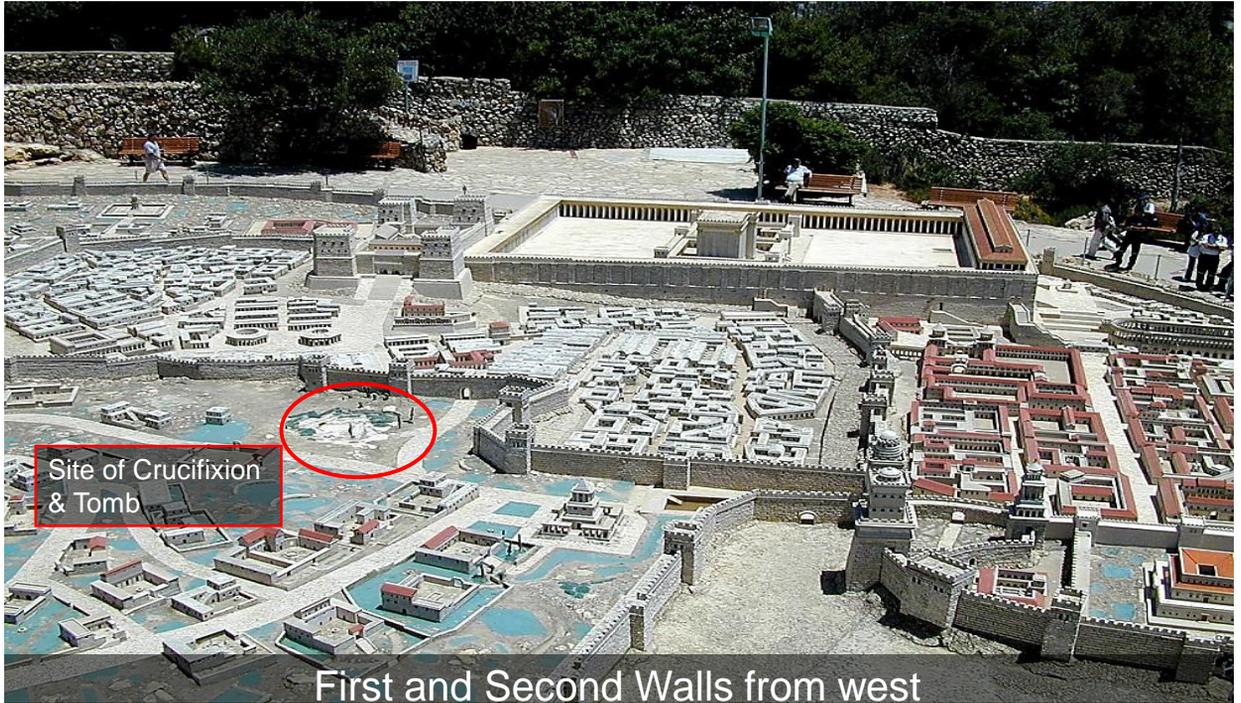
- The crowd :
 - 1) The Sanhedrin and their entourage
 - 2) Those buying & selling at the market
 - 3) Those who came to seek the release of a prisoner, perhaps even friends of Barabbas.
- Luke 23:27 - Following Him was a large crowd of the people, and of women who were mourning and lamenting Him.
- Luke 23:35 - The people stood by, looking on.
- 40 - There were also some women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the Less and Joses, and Salome.

Jerusalem in Jesus' Time



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● III. The False Teachers (31-32a)

- 1) "He saved others."
 - Cf. John 11:47 – [after the raising of Lazarus] the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, "What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs."
 - 3:22 - The scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons."
- 2) "He cannot save himself."

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● III. The False Teachers (31-32a)

- 3) "Let this Christ, the King of Israel."
 - Cf. Luke 23:35 - And the people stood by, looking on. And even the rulers were sneering at Him, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One."
 - Matt. 27:43 adds that the Jewish leaders also referred to Jesus in another way: "HE TRUSTS IN GOD; LET GOD RESCUE Him now, IF HE DELIGHTS IN HIM; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'"
- 4) "Let this [one who has claimed to be the [Christ, the King of Israel, [the Son of God] now come down from the cross, so that we may see and believe!"
 - Luke 16:31 - "If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead."

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● IV. The Entirely Pagan (Luke 23:36-37)

- Luke 23:36-37 - The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up to Him, offering Him sour wine,³⁷ and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!"

● V. The Condemned Sinners (32b)

Why Include the Ridicule of Jesus?

- **1)** Their ridicule restated Jesus' remarkable claims.
 - He claimed to be Christ!
 - He claimed to be the King of Israel!
 - He claimed to be the Son of God!
- **2)** Their ridicule highlighted the heart of Jesus' remarkable mission.
 - Cf. 10:45 - "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Why Include the Ridicule of Jesus?

- **3)** Their ridicule reminded everyone of Jesus' proof of his claims.
 - Cf. John 2:18-22
- **4)** Their ridicule reminds us that God gets the last laugh.
 - Cf. Ps. 2:4-6, 10-12